

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently amended) A method of satisfying a resource request in a computer system for configuring systems ~~using a resource comprising a combination of resources~~, the method comprising:

- instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model, wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model hierarchy;
- (a) examining the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ one of the elements offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a ~~combination of multiple like~~ pool of resources;
- (b) selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not been previously consumed;
- (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements satisfy the resource request; and
- (d) repeating (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.

40. Canceled.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein each element offering a resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of the resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1           43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein one of the resources in  
2 the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1           44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the element offering the  
2 resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to  
3 provide the requested resource.

4           45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the combination of  
5 multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element.

1           46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein each element offering a  
2 resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in  
3 the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1           47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein a plurality of the  
2 resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1           48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein one of the resources  
2 inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1           49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the configuration  
2 instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance  
3 includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.

1           50.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for configuring systems comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a memory coupled to the processor;  
4 a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a  
5 structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;  
6 a configuration engine, stored in the memory and executable by the processor, to satisfy a  
7 resource request using a resource ~~comprising a combination of resources~~ offered

8           by one of the elements, wherein the configuration engine includes code  
9           executable by the processor for:  
10          instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;  
11          (a) examining the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ one of the elements  
12             offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the  
13             resource offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model  
14             hierarchy represents a ~~combination of multiple like~~ pool of resources;  
15          (b) selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not been  
16             previously consumed;  
17          (c) selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no  
18             existing elements satisfy the resource request; and  
19          (d) repeating step (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the  
20             resource request.

1           51.     Canceled.

1           52.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein each element offering a  
2           resource that includes a pool of resources is a structural superior in the structural model  
3           hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1           53.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of the  
2           resources in the pool of resources combine to satisfy the resource request.

1           54.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein one of the resources in  
2           the pool of resources satisfies the resource request.

1           55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the element offering the  
2 resource includes multiple power supplies whose combined power supply capacity is pooled to  
3 provide the requested resource.

4           56.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the combination of  
5 multiple like resources comprises resources inherited from at least one other element

1           57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein each element offering a  
2 resource includes resources inherited from at least one other element is a structural superior in  
3 the structural model hierarchy to an element consuming the resource.

1           58.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein a plurality of the  
2 resources inherited from at least one other element combines to satisfy the resource request.

1           59.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 wherein one of the resources  
2 inherited from at least one other element satisfies the resource request.

1           60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the configuration  
2 instance is empty when a new configuration is being defined and the configuration instance  
3 includes an existing configuration when an existing system is being updated.

1           61.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising code encoded  
2 therein and executable by a processor to cause the processor to:

3           instantiate in the computer system a configuration instance from a configuration model,  
4           wherein the configuration model includes a defined structural hierarchy of  
5           elements and a plurality of resources offered by elements in the structural model  
6           hierarchy;

7           (a) examine the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ one of the elements offering a  
8           resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource offered by  
9           at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents a  
10          ~~combination of multiple like~~ pool of resources;

- 11 (b) select the element when the resource offered by the element has not been previously  
12 consumed;  
13 (c) select a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no existing elements  
14 satisfy the resource request; and  
15 (d) repeat (a) through (d) when the element selection does not satisfy the resource  
16 request.

1 62. (Currently amended) An apparatus for satisfying a resource request in a computer  
2 system for configuring systems using a resource comprising a combination of resources  
3 comprising:

- 4 a processor;  
5 a memory coupled to the processor;  
6 a model stored in the memory, wherein elements included in the model are defined in a  
7 structural model hierarchy and each of the elements offers one or more resources;  
8 means for defining a structural model hierarchy and a plurality of resources offered by  
9 elements in the structural model hierarchy;  
10 means for instantiating in the computer system a configuration instance;  
11 (a) means for examining the configuration instance for ~~an element~~ one of the elements  
12 offering a resource in response to a request for the resource, wherein the resource  
13 offered by at least one of the elements in the structural model hierarchy represents  
14 ~~a combination of multiple like~~ pool of resources;  
15 (b) means for selecting the element when the resource offered by the element has not  
16 been previously consumed;  
17 (c) means for selecting a newly created element instance that offers the resource if no  
18 existing elements satisfy the resource request; and  
19 (d) means for causing (a) through (d) to search for another element to satisfy the resource  
20 request when the element selection does not satisfy the resource request.